

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 12-13 and 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 are amended; and Claim 19 is newly added by the present amendment. Support for the new and amended claims can be found at least at Figs. 4 and 9 and their corresponding descriptions in the originally filed specification. No new matter is presented.

In the Final Office Action of March 17, 2011 (herein the Final Office Action) Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Simonoff (U.S. 7,043,529) in view of Morris et al. (U.S. 2002/0052919, herein Morris); and Claims 2 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Morris and Johnson et al. (U.S. 7,143,177, herein Johnson).

The Final Office Action rejects Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Simonoff in view of Morris. In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 1, for example, recites, in part, a service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

... instructions to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms instructions commanding said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to simultaneously display in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, the list of available content, the name of the content being shared by all of information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions

from the transmitting means, and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms.

Independent Claims 4-5 and 12, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite features similar to those emphasized above.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Figs. 4, 7 and 9 and pp. 10, 13 and 16-21 of the originally filed disclosure, the information processing apparatus may be a client computer (e.g., client computer 3) including a display (e.g., LCD 58), which, as would be known to one of ordinary skill in the art, allows a plurality of windows to be displayed on the display. As is shown in Fig. 9, one window (e.g., main window 81) is transmitted from the shared server to each of the clients participating in the chat room, and within this one window a list of available content 85, the name of the content currently being shared 82 and identification information of each of the clients participating in the chat room 84 are simultaneously displayed.

In rebutting the previously presented arguments directed to the above-noted claimed feature, pp. 16-17 of the Final Office Action relies on Fig. 12B of Simonoff asserting that Fig. 12B “teaches simultaneous display in one display window ... the list of available content ... the name of content being shared ... and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses ...” At p. 17, the Office Action acknowledges that “Although the list of available content overlaps the displays of the name of the content ... and identification information ..., however, all of these displays are part of the same collaborator window.” (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization of Simonoff, because the “Collaborator” window and “Whiteboard Files” window are two different display windows that happen to overlap with one another. As shown in Fig. 12B, the second, separate, overlapping “Whiteboard Files” window is displayed, which appears to list available content

that may be selected by a user and uploaded to the “Collaborator” window. The fact that these two windows are different windows is also clear from Fig. 12B, which shows that each of the “Collaborator” window and the “Whiteboard Files” windows include different window control functions in the upper right hand corner, such as minimize, resize and close. Thus, the display status (i.e. minimized, closed, maximized, etc.) of these two windows can be independently controlled, thereby emphasizing the fact that they are, indeed, two separate and distinct windows.

Therefore, while the “Collaborator” window and “Whiteboard Files” window may be simultaneously displayed on the same display in an overlapping manner, these windows are a plurality of separate and distinct windows and can not reasonably be considered analogous to one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, as claimed. In this regard, independent Claims 1, 4-5 and 12 are further amended to clarify that the claimed information is not merely displayed on a display simultaneously, but specifically define that the information is simultaneously displayed in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, which is more limiting than merely being displayed simultaneously on a single display.

Thus, at no point does Simonoff teach or suggest simultaneously displaying in one window on a display configured to display a plurality of windows, “the list of available content, the name of the content being shared ..., and identification information corresponding to all of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms”, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Further, neither Morris nor Johnson remedies the above noted deficiencies of Simonoff.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 (and Claim 2, which depends therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. 103 be

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withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that independent Claims 4-5 and 12 (and the claims that depend therefrom) patentably define over the applied references.

Moreover, new Claim 19 is added, which depends from independent Claim 1 and recites that the claimed information is displayed in three distinct display areas in the one window of the display. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 19 patentably defines over the applied references at least by virtue of its dependency from independent Claim 1, and further submits that the applied references fail to teach or suggest the above-noted limitations recited in new dependent Claim 19.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 12-13 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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